Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (withdrawn): An automated method for selling information to a
2   buying system, comprising:
3   relating information to an event that has not yet occurred and storing the
4   information in electronic form;
5   offering the information for online sale through a selling system;
6   receiving from a buying system an offer for the information that includes a
7   contingency that specifies an uncertainty of the event occurring;
8   specifying a condition for the information that will resolve the uncertainty
9   and thereby satisfy the contingency;
10   providing the information and the condition from the selling system,
11   wherein acceptance of the condition forms a contract;
12   triggering at least part of a payment from the buying system upon
13   satisfaction of the condition; and
14   receiving the payment upon the buying system having determined that the
15   satisfaction of the condition has resolved the uncertainty and thereby satisfied the
16   contingency.

1   2.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 1, further
2   comprising receiving a base payment as the payment when the information has
3   been provided to the buying system.

1   3.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 1, further
2   comprising adjusting an amount for the payment based on a predicted probability
3   that the condition for the contingency will occur.

1   4.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 3, further

2 comprising:

3   selecting the predicted probability for the condition to resolve the

4 uncertainty to thereby satisfy the contingency; and

5   determining the amount for the payment based on a function which uses

6 the predicted probability for the condition for the contingency occurring.

1   5.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the

2 amount of the payment is maximized when the predicted probability for the

3 condition occurring is equal to a true probability for the condition occurring.

1   6.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 1, further

2 comprising setting the condition to resolve the uncertainty to thereby satisfy the

3 contingency in the received offer.

1   7.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 6, further

2 comprising:

3   sending a counteroffer to the buying system based on the offer, the

4 counteroffer providing the condition set to resolve the uncertainty to thereby

5 satisfy the contingency to the buying system; and

6   determining if the counteroffer with the condition set is accepted by the

7 buying system, wherein the information is only provided upon the condition set

8 being accepted.

1   Claim 8. (cancelled).

1   Claim 9. (cancelled).

1   10.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein one or

2 more of the steps are carried out electronically.

1   11.   (previously presented): A system for selling information to a

2   buying system comprising:

3   an interface operatively coupled to a buying system via a communication

4   link;

5   a memory to store information in electronic form;

6   a processor, comprising:

7   a relation module to relate the information to an event that has not

8   yet occurred;

9   an offer module to offer the information for online sale;

10   a receiving module to receive an offer from the buying system for

11   the information that includes a contingency that specifies an uncertainty of the

12   event occurring;

13   a specification module to specify a condition for the information

14   that will resolve the uncertainty and thereby satisfy the contingency;

15   a condition module to provide the information and the condition,

16   wherein acceptance of the condition forms a contract;

17   a trigger module to trigger at least part of a payment from the

18   buying system upon satisfaction of the condition; and

19   a contingent payment module to receive the payment upon the

20   buying system having determined that the satisfaction of the condition has

21   resolved the uncertainty and thereby satisfied the contingency.

1   12.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 11, further

2   comprising a base payment processing system that receives a base payment as the

3   payment when the information has been provided.

1   13.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 11,

2   wherein the contingency payment processing system adjusts an amount for the

3   payment based on a predicted probability that the condition to resolve the

4   uncertainty to thereby satisfy the contingency occurs.

1   14.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 13,

2 wherein the contingency payment processing system selects the predicted

3 probability to resolve the uncertainty to satisfy the condition for the contingency

4 and a function for determining the amount for the payment based on the predicted

5 probability for the condition for the contingency occurring.

1   15.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 14,

2 wherein the contingency payment processing system maximizes the amount of the

3 contingent payment when the predicted probability for the condition occurring is

4 substantially the same as a true probability for the condition occurring.

1   16.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 11, further

2 comprising a condition setting system which sets the condition to resolve the

3 uncertainty to thereby satisfy the contingency in the received offer.

1   17.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 16, further

2 comprising:

3   a counteroffer system that sends a counteroffer to the buying system based

4 on the offer, the counteroffer provides the condition set to resolve the uncertainty

5 to thereby satisfy the contingency to the buying system; and

6   purchase decision system that determines if the counteroffer with the

7 condition set is accepted by the buying system, wherein the information is only

8 provided upon the condition set being accepted.

1   Claim 18. (cancelled).

1   Claim 19. (cancelled).

1   20.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 11,

2 wherein the receiving system receives the offer and the source of the information

3 provides the information electronically.

1   21.   (withdrawn): A computer readable medium having stored

2 instructions for selling contingent information which when executed by a

3 processor, causes the processor to perform:

4   relating information to an event that has not yet occurred and storing the

5 information in electronic form;

6   offering the information for online sale through a selling system;

7   receiving from a buying system an offer for the information that includes a

8 contingency that specifies an uncertainty of the event occurring;

9   specifying a condition for the information that will resolve the uncertainty

10 and thereby satisfy the contingency;

11   providing the information and the condition from the selling system,

12 wherein acceptance of the condition forms a contract;

13   triggering at least part of a payment from the buying system upon

14 satisfaction of the condition; and

15   receiving the payment upon the buying system having determined that the

16 satisfaction of the condition has resolved the uncertainty and thereby satisfied the

17 contingency.

1   22.   (withdrawn): The medium as set forth in claim 22, further

2 comprising receiving a base payment as the payment when the information has

3 been provided to the buying system.

1   23.   (withdrawn): The medium as set forth in claim 22, further

2 comprising adjusting an amount for the at least part of the payment based on a

3 predicted probability that the condition to resolve the uncertainty to thereby

4 satisfy the contingency will occur.

1   24.   (withdrawn): The medium as set forth in claim 23, further

2 comprising:

3   selecting the predicted probability for the condition for the contingency;

4 and

5   determining the amount for the payment based on a function which uses

6 the predicted probability for the condition for the contingency occurring.

1   25.   (withdrawn): The medium as set forth in claim 24, wherein the

2 amount of the payment is maximized when the predicted probability for the

3 condition occurring is equal to a true probability for the condition occurring.

1   26.   (withdrawn): The medium as set forth in claim 21, further

2 comprising setting the condition to resolve the uncertainty to thereby satisfy the

3 contingency in the received offer.

1   27.   (withdrawn): The medium as set forth in claim 26, further

2 comprising:

3   sending a counteroffer to the buying system based on the offer, the

4 counteroffer providing the condition set to resolve the uncertainty to thereby

5 satisfy the contingency to the buying system; and

6   determining if the counteroffer with the condition set is accepted by the

7 buying system, wherein the information is only provided upon the condition set

8 being accepted.

1   Claim 28. (cancelled).

1   Claim 29. (cancelled).

1   30.   (withdrawn): The medium as set forth in claim 21, wherein one or

2 more of the steps are carried out electronically.

1   31.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the

2 information from the selling system in response to the offer is provided without a

3 payment from the buying system.

1   32.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 11,

2   wherein the information from the selling system in response to the offer is

3   provided without a payment from the buying system.

1   33.   (withdrawn): The medium as set forth in claim 21, wherein the

2   information from the selling system in response to the offer is provided without a

3   payment from the buying system.

1   34.   (withdrawn): An automated method for selling information to a

2   buying system, comprising:

3   relating information to an event that has not yet occurred and storing the

4   information in electronic form;

5   offering the information for online sale through a selling system;

6   receiving from a buying system an offer for the information that includes a

7   contingency that specifies an uncertainty of the event occurring;

8   specifying a condition for the information that will resolve the uncertainty

9   and thereby satisfy the contingency;

10   requiring at least part of a payment, comprising:

11   selecting a predicted probability for the condition to resolve the

12   uncertainty and thereby satisfy the contingency; and

13   determining an amount of the payment based on a function which

14   uses the predicted probability;

15   providing the information and the condition from the selling system,

16   wherein acceptance of the condition forms a contract;

17   triggering the payment from the buying system upon satisfaction of the

18   condition; and

19   receiving the payment upon the buying system subsequently having

20   determined that the satisfaction of the condition has resolved the uncertainty and

21   thereby satisfied the contingency.

1   35.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 34, further

2   comprising:

3   receiving a base payment as the payment upon providing the information

4   to the buying system.

1   36.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 34, wherein the

2   amount of the payment is maximized when the predicted probability is equal to a

3   true probability the condition occurring.

1   37.   (withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 34, wherein the

2   function incorporates risk aversion.

1   38.   (previously presented): A system for selling information to a

2   buying system comprising:

3   an interface operatively coupled to a buying system via a communication

4   link;

5   a memory to store information in electronic form;

6   a processor, comprising:

7   a relation module to relate the information to an event that has not

8   yet occurred;

9   an offer module to offer the information for online sale;

10   a receiving module to receive an offer from the buying system for

11   the information that includes a contingency that specifies an uncertainty of the

12   event occurring;

13   a specification module to specify a condition for the information

14   that will resolve the uncertainty and thereby satisfy the contingency;

15   a condition module to provide the information and the condition,

16   wherein acceptance of the condition forms a contract;

17   a probability module to require at least part of a payment based on

18   a predicted probability, to select the predicted probability for the condition to

19   resolve the uncertainty and thereby satisfy the contingency, and to determine an

20   amount for the payment based on a function which uses the predicted probability;

21   a trigger module to trigger the payment from the buying system

22   upon satisfaction of the condition; and

23   a contingent payment module to receive the payment upon the

24   buying system having determined that the satisfaction of the condition has

25   resolved the uncertainty and thereby satisfied the contingency.

1   39.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 38,

2   wherein the payment includes a base payment upon providing the information to

3   the buying system.

1   40.   (previously presented): The system as set forth in claim 38,

2   wherein the amount of the payment is maximized when the predicted probability

3   is equal to a true probability the condition occurring.

1   41.   (previously presented) : The system as set forth in claim 38,

2   wherein the function incorporates risk aversion.